

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1-30 have been rejected. Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16, 21, 25, and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been appropriately amended to remove the terms “or”, “(or an equivalent data type)”, and “(or their equivalents)”. With respect to the Office Action’s statement that the term “ntext” in the claims is vague and/or indefinite, it is respectfully submitted that ntext is a well known term for a variable-length data type for storing large Unicode data. As is also well known, ntext is a synonym for national text. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 15-17, 21, and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Becker (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,579). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5-7, 11, 15-17, 21, and 25-27 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are directed to handling a large data object in a computer system. The claims include the feature of a handling structure that can be processed by the computer system, via functions, operations, etc. available for a small data object, with which the large data object could not be processed. The claims have been amended to recite that the handling structure comprises a reference to locate the large data object and information to return an interface to provide access to the large data object (see application, as originally filed, at paragraphs [0025] and [0026], for example). The prior art, taken alone or in combination, neither discloses nor suggests a handling structure as claimed.

Becker is directed to a data structure visualization tool that displays a data structure such as a decision tree classifier. Becker takes a data set, such as a large set of raw data, and processes it to create a data file based on the data set. The data file is then used by the visualization tool. A data file comprises attributes and data found in the raw data. (column 10, lines 23 et seq.). The Office Action equates Becker’s data file with the claimed handling structure. However, the claims have been amended, and Becker’s data file does not comprise

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-3030/307230.01
Application No.: 10/776,664
Office Action Dated: July 18, 2006

PATENT

a reference to locate a large data object and information to return an interface to provide access to the large data object as now recited in the claims.

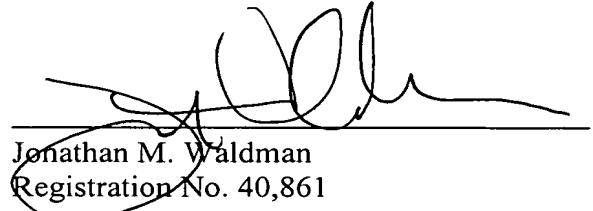
Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, and 21, and their dependent claims, are patentable for the reasons set forth above. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 5-7, 11, 15-17, 21, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-14, 18-20, 22-24, and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker in view of Bruso (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,219). Claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-14, 18-20, 22-24, and 28-30 variously depend from the independent claims, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above.

Bruso fails to cure the deficiencies of Becker. Bruso describes managing large objects in a database using an object handler, but does not disclose or suggest a handling structure that comprises a reference to locate a large data object and information to return an interface to provide access to the large data object, as claimed. The object handler stores each large object in a section of contiguous storage referenced by an associated identifier and manages binary large objects. This storage and management is completely different from the claimed handling structure. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-14, 18-20, 22-24, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Date: October 16, 2006


Jonathan M. Waldman
Registration No. 40,861

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439